

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 03270 241559Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----241629Z 023457 /41
R 241447Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3220

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 3270

STADIS////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

FROM AMBASSADOR FOR NEA/ARN DRAPER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SY, US
SUBJECT: SYRIAN JEWRY: DR. BALLAS

REF: STATE 117993

1. RE YOUR QUESTION PARA 3 REFTTEL, WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER
CONTEXT OF MARRIAGE PROPOSALS CAN BE STRETCHED TO COVER
DR. BALLAS' APPLICATION. PRESIDENT CARTER WITH AL-ASSAD
REFERRED ONLY TO THE PROBLEM OF UNMARRIED WOMEN. AL-ASSAD
REPLIED THAT THESE COULD BE REVIEWED ON A CASE-BY-CASE
BASIS. I DID NOT READ THIS AS BEING PARTICULARLY FORTH-
COMING AND COMMENTED LATER TO PRESIDENT CARTER THAT AL-
ASSAD IN FACT SEEMED TO BE RETREATING A BIT FROM THE TREND
OF THE JANUARY DECREE, AT LEAST AS IT WAS INITIALLY INTERPRETED
TO US (BY SHOULFI.)

2. WE HAVE NOT AS YET RECEIVED ANY DEFINITE MARRIAGE
PROPOSAL TO USE TO ESTABLISH A PROCEDURE FOR BRINGING
CASES TO AL-ASSAD'S ATTENTION. INITIALLY I ASSUME
I WILL GO TO DAOUDI, WHO WAS PRESENT WHEN AL-ASSAD MADE
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HIS STATEMENT, OR TO PRESIDENT'S PRIVATE SECRETARY DABOUL.
I BELIEVE WE OUGHT TO USE SOLID MARRIAGE PROPOSAL CASES TO
OPEN THIS DOOR. I WOULD NOT WANT TO TRY TO PUSH THE SYRIANS
FURTHER THAN I ALREADY HAVE ON BALLAS UNTIL WE HAVE TESTED
THE WATER WITH THE WOMEN AND RECEIVED POSITIVE RESULTS.

3. DCM ASKED TOUTAH MAY 23 WHY HE HAD BEEN UNWILLING TO

GIVE A PERSONAL GUARANTEE IN BALLAS CASE. TOUTAH REPLIED
FIRMLY THAT HE COULD NOT BECAUSE BALLAS' NON-RETURN WOULD
THEN BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE WHOLE COMMUNITY.
ADDITIONALLY, IF HE DID OFFER PERSONAL GUARANTEE, HOARDS
OF APPLICANTS WOULD WANT THE SAME THING FROM HIM. HE SAID
HE WAS NOT GOING TO LET SYRIAN AUTHORITIES SHIFT TO HIM
AND COUNCIL RESPONSIBILIYT FOR THEIR LAWS.
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

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